
African Union Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact (2005/2009)

Adopted in Abuja, Nigeria, on 31 January 2005. The Pact entered into force on 18 December 2009. Full text available at www.au.int

Excerpts

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Obligations

Article 3

- (a) State parties undertake, pursuant to the provisions of the Constitutive Act, to resolve any differences by peaceful means, in order to avoid endangering peace and security; to refrain from the use of force or threat to use force in their relations with each other and in any manner whatsoever, incompatible with the United Nations Charter. Consequently, no consideration whatsoever, be it political, economic, military, religious or racial shall justify aggression.
- (b) State parties undertake to develop and strengthen the friendly and peaceful relations among them in accordance with the fundamental principles of the Union.
- (c) State parties undertake to promote such sustainable development policies as are appropriate to enhance the well being of the African people, including the dignity and fundamental rights of every human being in the context of a democratic society as stipulated in the Lomé Declaration. In particular, state parties shall ensure freedom of worship, respect of the cultural identity of peoples and the rights of minorities.
- (d) State parties undertake to prohibit and prevent genocide, other forms of mass murder as well as crimes against humanity.

Article 4

- (a) State parties undertake to provide mutual assistance towards their common defence and security *vis-à-vis* any aggression or threats of aggression.
- (b) State parties undertake, individually and collectively, to respond by all available means to aggression or threats of aggression against any member state.
- (c) State parties undertake not to recognise any territorial acquisition or special advantage, resulting from the use of aggression.
- (d) As part of the vision of building a strong and united Africa, state parties undertake to establish an African Army at the final stage of the political and economic integration of the Continent. In the meantime, state parties will make best efforts to address the challenges of common defence and security through the effective implementation of the Common African Defence and

Security Policy, including the early establishment and operationalisation of the African Standby Force.

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Article 6

(a) State parties undertake to extend mutual legal and all other assistance in the event of threats of terrorist attack or other organised international crimes.

(b) State parties undertake to arrest and prosecute any irregular armed group(s), mercenaries or terrorist(s) that pose a threat to any member state.

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African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism

Article 13

(a) The African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) shall serve to centralise, collect and disseminate information, studies and analysis on terrorism and terrorist groups, and shall provide training programs by organising, with the assistance of international partners meetings, and symposia, in order to prevent and combat terrorist acts in Africa.

(b) The Centre shall assist member states develop the expertise and strategies for the prevention and combating of terrorism, particularly with respect to the implementation of the 1999 OAU Convention and its Protocol thereto on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, as well as the Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa and other relevant decisions adopted by the policy Organs of the Union.

(c) State parties undertake to support fully and take active part in the activities of the Centre.

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